

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Previously amended Figure 2 has been further amended to include reference characters "41A", "41B", and "41C" for first sidewall, the second sidewall, and the bottom wall, respectively, of the hook 41.

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed February 28, 2006 has been reviewed and the Examiner's comments carefully considered. Claims 1-4, 6 and 8-18 were pending at the time of Office Action. In the foregoing amendment, claims 11 and 15-18 are amended and claim 14 is cancelled. Thus, claims 1-4, 8-13 and 15-18 are now pending.

The allowance of claims 1-4, 6 and 8-10 is noted with appreciation.

The specification is objected to for failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the subject matter of claim 16. The specification (§ [0047]) and Fig. 2 have been amended where appropriate. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claim 16 is objected to. Claim 15 (i.e., the claim from which claim 16 depends) has been amended, and the objection is now obviated. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 16 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claims 16 and 18 have been amended where appropriate. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Prior Art Rejections

Claims 11-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent Nos. 5,794,967 ("Manire") and 6,039,342 ("Sasaki"). Claim 11 has been amended to recite the limitations of claim 14, and now recites an airbag apparatus for a front passenger seat of a vehicle that includes a fixing part:

wherein the fixing part includes two substantially parallel, non-coplanar members that extend in a direction substantially parallel to the instrument panel and away from the container,

...

wherein the two members are connected together by a fastener to form a clamp for the wall section.

The rejection should be withdrawn, because neither Manire nor Sasaki discloses, teaches, or suggests such an airbag apparatus.

The Examiner contends that the locating tabs 120c and locking tang 124b of Manire correspond to the claimed "fixing part." The Examiner also contends that the hook members 25, 25a disclosed by Sasaki also correspond to the "fixing part." However, neither Manire nor Sasaki disclose, teach or suggest that "the two members are connected together by a

fastener to form a clamp for the wall section” as called for in claim 11. Thus, the rejection of claim 11 should be withdrawn. Furthermore, claims 12 and 13 depend from claim 11 and are allowable therewith, for at least the reasons set forth above, without regard to the further patentable limitations contained therein.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 11-13 is respectfully requested.

Claims 15-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,941,558 (“Labrie”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,595,543 (“Desprez”). The rejection should be withdrawn because neither Labrie nor Desprez disclose, teach or suggest the claimed invention.

Claims 15 and 17 both call for an airbag apparatus including:

a container that has an opposing pair of substantially parallel sidewalls;
and ...the other of the pair of opposing sidewalls includes a fixing part

Claim 15 also calls for the fixing part to include “two members that extend substantially in parallel with each other.” Claim 17 calls for the fixing part to include “two substantially parallel, non-coplanar members.”

Labrie discloses a bag receptacle 26. However, neither of the walls of the bag receptacle 26 include a fixing part that has two substantially parallel members as called for in claims 15 and 17. Rather, the only part of Labrie that includes two members that extend substantially parallel with each other are the parts 34, 36 of the outer partition 35. However, these elements (parts 34, 36) are not part of the bag receptacle 26 (i.e., “container”). Desprez fails to cure this deficiency of Labrie. Thus, the rejection should be withdrawn.

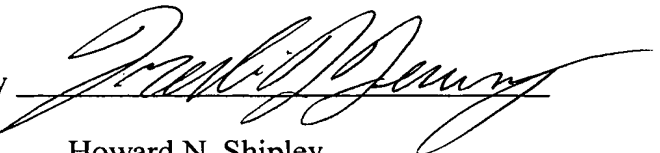
Claims 16 and 18 depend from claims 15 and 17, respectively. Thus, each of these dependent claims is allowable with its corresponding independent claim for at least the reasons set forth above without regard to the other patentable limitations recited therein. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 15-18 is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

For the aforementioned reasons, claims 1-4, 6, 8-13, and 15-18 are now in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned if such communication would expedite the prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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By 

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THE COMMISSIONER IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO CHARGE ANY ADDITIONAL FEES WHICH MAY BE REQUIRED REGARDING THIS APPLICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, OR CREDIT ANY OVERPAYMENT, TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 19-0741. SHOULD NO PROPER PAYMENT BE ENCLOSED HEREWITH, AS BY A CHECK BEING IN THE WRONG AMOUNT, UNSIGNED, POST-DATED, OTHERWISE IMPROPER OR INFORMAL OR EVEN ENTIRELY MISSING, THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED TO CHARGE THE UNPAID AMOUNT TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 19-0741. IF ANY EXTENSIONS OF TIME ARE NEEDED FOR TIMELY ACCEPTANCE OF PAPERS SUBMITTED HEREWITH, APPLICANT HEREBY PETITIONS FOR SUCH EXTENSION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 AND AUTHORIZES PAYMENT OF ANY SUCH EXTENSIONS FEES TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 19-0741.